

The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Published by
The Evening Star Newspaper Company.
SAMUEL H. KAUFFMANN, President.
B. M. MCKELWAY, Editor.

MAIN OFFICE: 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 420 Lexington Ave.
CHICAGO OFFICE: 435 North Michigan Ave.

Delivered by Carrier.
Evening and Sunday 15.00 1 year 8.00
Monthly 1.25 6 months 7.00
Weekly 40c 30c Weekly 10c
*10c additional for Night Final Edition.
Rates by Mail—Payable in Advance.
Anywhere in the United States.

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*10c additional for Night Final Edition.
Entered at the Post Office, Washington, D. C.,
as second-class mail matter.

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A-14 MONDAY, December 10, 1951

Mr. Truman Comes Home

The President says his decision to cut short his key West vacation and return home does not signify that the world is coming to an end. This means, presumably, that there is no international crisis in the making.

From Mr. Truman's point of view, however, there is a serious domestic crisis to be dealt with. Since he left Washington some very ugly skeletons have been hauled out of the closet in his administration, and those of his aides who remained in the Capital have given little evidence of knowing what to do about these disclosures.

Only last week Attorney General McGrath made a speech to the Federal Bar Association in which he said that "when all the storms and the winds have passed, not one lawyer working for the United States will be found to be delinquent in his duty or to his oath of office." Only Mr. McGrath knows precisely what he meant by that statement. It sounds, however, like the statement of a man who is unwilling to face facts, and, in the light of some of the derelictions which have already been exposed, it comes with poor grace from the Nation's chief law enforcement officer.

It has been reported that Mr. Truman contemplates drastic action—possibly something comparable to the measures taken by President Coolidge after the Teapot Dome scandal. Mr. Coolidge turned that house-cleaning job over to a Democrat and a Republican, both highly respected, and Mr. Truman should do something of the same sort. It is too late in the day to hope to recapture public confidence by having the Truman administration investigate itself. If the job is to be done, it should be done by someone outside the administration circle in whose findings the public would have some confidence.

Debasement of College Sports

New York Judge Streit has done a good job of exposing the type of "moral debasement" in collegiate sports that, although confined to a few colleges, has had the unfortunate effect of reflecting unfairly on campus athletics generally. Judge Streit does not quarrel with a college sports system which gives proper emphasis to academic standing. What he is justifiably indignant about is the sort of over-emphasis on sports which condones "illegal" recruiting of players, evasion of scholastic standards and other practices impairing "the integrity of the college."

In suspending bribery sentences against three former Bradley University basketball stars, Judge Streit blamed the university itself for undermining the morals of the trio. He pointed to some of the ridiculous courses which these players were permitted to take in order to maintain high enough scholastic standing to continue to play basketball. One of the boys, for example, was given a credit toward graduation for attending a co-ed dancing class two hours a week for 18 weeks. Another received credits for touch football and individual gymnastics—although he was majoring in business administration. The third player received credits for "elementary badminton" in addition to other games.

Furthermore, the Bradley players received no ordinary subsidies. In addition to the tuition and subsistence aid customary in many colleges, the Bradley basketball team received frequent cash payments from a so-called Boosters' Club, composed of alumni and citizens of Peoria. Of \$25,000 raised by the club for support of the team, \$14,000 was contributed to the university to pay room and board of athletes. But the club went further in its aid than that, Judge Streit said. Members of the team testified that they could get substantial sums from the club any time they needed money. Regular monthly payments were made to certain stars as "expense money." The judge commented appropriately: "A Boosters' Club which is determined that the local college should have the best basketball or football team that money can buy is not rendering a service to the community."

The Bradley system undoubtedly is an extreme example of what the court aptly calls the "commercialization" of college sports. Such a system is likely to develop whenever a college makes the mistake of overemphasizing athletics. "The defendants were corrupted and demoralized," Judge Streit declared, "by a system which set athletic success above education." Athletic scholarships are not necessarily an evil. But evil does emerge when the demand for winning teams leads to such abuses as have been revealed at Bradley and several other colleges.

Philippine Volcano

When Mount Magsik in the Alaskan Peninsula blew up last summer, seismologists said: "That means that the entire Pacific area is active in a seismic sense." No eruption ever occurs in South Alaska independently. The craters of that portion of the globe are related directly to those of Hawaii, Japan, the Dutch East Indies, New Zealand and—most particularly—the Philippines. Current disturbances on Camiguin are being caused by the same terrific forces responsible for those at Mount Magsik four or five months ago.

The entire Philippine archipelago is composed of hills gradually being raised by the weight of the surrounding ocean. United States geologists have reported that the Alaskan coast was lifted 47 feet during an earthquake in 1899. Similar elevations are occurring throughout the Pacific half of the globe. Hibok Hibok in Camiguin is a young and vigorous volcano. It has erupted repeatedly since 1945. In nearby territories—in Southern Luzon, Camarines Norte, Negros, and Mindanao especially—earthquakes

are of almost daily incidence. Each tremor is, in effect, a readjustment of weights. A burning mountain is a natural outlet for material driven to escape by colossal energy within the earth. Gravity is part of that dynamic power.

Horrible as such phenomena may be, they are an imperative factor in the survival of our little fragment of the cosmos. If Hibok Hibok did not afford a vent for the fires and shifting weights deep within Camiguin, the island itself would be apt to disintegrate in one absolutely definitive blast, as Krakatoa did in 1883.

Logical explanations, of course, do not make the loss of life from volcanic eruptions less deplorable. But our earth is so crowded today that even very uncongenial sectors of it are inhabited. It is a legend in Italy that every time Vesuvius overflows the peasants who dwell upon its sides hurry back before the lava is cold. The people of Hibok Hibok will not desert their homes simply because their dwellings are in constant danger of being overwhelmed by clouds of hot cinders.

Iran and the World Bank

The present muddle and tension in Iran—where terrorism, confusion and blind emotionalism seem to have put common-sense statesmanship to rout—do not augur well for what the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is doing in an effort to find a formula for settling the dangerous oil controversy between Britain and Premier Mossadegh's government. Nevertheless, since both sides are said to be in sympathy with the bank's "explorations" to that end, there is at least a possibility that the effort will lead to encouraging results, and it ought therefore to be carried forward earnestly and in a spirit of good will by all parties concerned.

According to its own brief and cautious statement, the 50-nation World Bank is trying to discover some common ground for working out "a practical proposal" that would be mutually satisfactory to Iran and Britain. Although the whole matter is still very much in the exploratory stage, with nothing specific accomplished to date, the envisioned proposal—first suggested here by Pakistan's Ambassador—apparently would place the nationalized properties of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company under a trusteeship that would be run by the bank. The bank, in that capacity, presumably would then operate the enterprise—financing the production and refining, and arranging for marketing agreements—until the two parties to the dispute reached a final settlement.

Considering the failure of all past efforts to bring about an Anglo-Iranian agreement, prudence suggests that optimism be held in abeyance as regards what the World Bank is trying to do. Yet, wholly apart from Britain—which along with the West in general has a vital interest in any move designed to promote a sound settlement—the Mossadegh government certainly should feel impelled to co-operate in the bank's effort to find a way out of the present critical impasse. After all, Iran today, with oil operations at a virtual standstill, is getting nothing out of what used to furnish almost half of its total national revenue. The result is that it is heading toward bankruptcy—a prospective economic collapse that could readily lead to a Communist coup in Teheran.

In the teeth of this situation, both Britain and Iran owe it not only to themselves, but to the free Western world as a whole, to make a supreme and urgent effort to agree. If the World Bank succeeds in formulating a workable interim plan, then the London and Teheran governments should be quick to adopt that plan and proceed from there, step by step, toward a permanent settlement. At any rate, the bank itself, as long as it sees any possibility of bringing the two sides together, should do whatever it can to abate the crisis. Sooner or later, along with the British, the Iranians must assent to just and reasonable terms. Otherwise madness will have triumphed over statesmanship, and there will be chaos in their land. The Kremlin is watching and waiting.

TV's Voluntary Censorship

By adopting a code of decency to guide its members, the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters has made a move designed to head off congressional and public criticism of the type that led the motion-picture industry to adopt a similar code. There were serious threats of Federal movie censorship in the roaring '20s as a result of the Fatty Arbuckle and other scandals, to meet which Hollywood drafted the late Will Hays to become, in effect, the industry's own censor. Regulations were agreed to that eventually became the movie code of today.

The young and growing television industry has had no scandals of the Arbuckle type, but the Federal Communications Commission has received complaints about the multiplicity of bloodcurdling gangster and "horror" shows, infractions of good taste, too many drinking scenes and the like. Last June the whole problem was discussed here at a meeting attended by more than 100 broadcasters representing 65 stations and four national networks. Chairman Coy of the FCC and Chairman Edwin C. Johnson of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee joined in the discussion. Drawing up of a proposed code of practices was authorized at that conference.

Like the movie code, the TV regulations ban not only obscenity, profanity and vulgarity, but scenes or dialogue belittling any religion, creed or race, or condoning drunkenness, illicit sex relations, criminality, drug use, brutality or divorce. Gangsterism is to be shown only in an unfavorable light and law enforcement is to be "portrayed with respect and dignity." In short, the code is weighted against evil and in favor of virtue. Most stations do not need to refer to such a code, for it requires only the exercise of ordinary good taste and common sense to prevent objectionable matter from going on the air. Where there are lapses which bring a substantial amount of criticism, the association's board of review will investigate and, if the findings warrant, call the member to account.

Whether this voluntary plan of censoring TV will prove effective can be determined only by test. As an incentive to compliance with the code, the association will authorize members in good standing to display a seal of approval on screened announcements of shows. The seal will be withdrawn if a member wilfully violates the code. The public will have to be made familiar with the seal, if it is to mean anything. And the association will have to guard the use of the seal jealously to gain public confidence in it. Parents who have been worried about so much blood-and-thunder stuff during the hours when children usually watch television will be relieved to learn that broadcasters also are becoming concerned about it. And parents will be the first to applaud if the new code works the way its sponsors hope it will.

Tiny Confederate battle flags, part of a new craze in Dixie, are manufactured up North. Thus, as always, the South gets the sentiment and the Yankees the gravy.

Cheese Story That Improves With Age

By Edward Boykin

NO MATTER how good his intentions, a man who calls at the White House in our time bearing a big cheese stands a fair chance of getting his feelings hurt. However, there's a cheese story of this sort that improves with age concerning Thomas Jefferson and the farmers from the Berkshire foothill town of Cheshire, Mass.

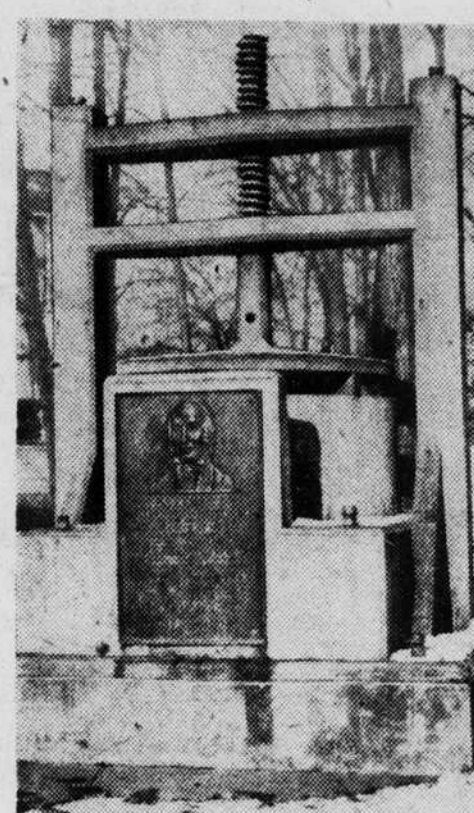
Though leery of those who came with gifts, President Jefferson was cordial as always and profuse in his thanks when a sleigh pulled by six horses hauled a 1,235-pound cheese from the Berkshires to the Executive Mansion 150 years ago.

A "peppercorn of esteem," the cheese looked more like a good-sized millstone—4 feet 7 inches in diameter. It was Cheshire's way of showing how elated its citizen-farmers were over Jefferson's election. And it was the idea of Parson John Leland, an ardent Jeffersonian Democrat, but then known as a Republican.

Cheshire excelled in dairy products and Jefferson appreciated tasty morsels. So Cheshire's obvious gift, for the "People's Friend" was the biggest and best cheese that could be made. Every Cheshire man and woman who owned a cow—a Republican cow that is—gave a day's milking. Federalist curds were rejected, even though none was offered.

In fact, the Federalists hooted, just as Republicans today might hoot such a gesture, if merely for the exercise. The Federalist press ridiculed the "Cheshire simptoms" and implied it amounted to carrying coals to Newcastle.

Elder Darius Brown offered his cider press to make the cheese and amid prayers and hymn-singing the cheese was put to press. Snow flew in the Berkshires in late November, 1801, when Parson Leland and Elder Brown set out for Washington. Their sleigh crunched along for a month, cheered and jeered



Cement reproduction at Cheshire, Mass., of press used to make "Mammoth Cheese" for Thomas Jefferson. Bronze tablet shows Parson John Leland, who engineered the project.

alternately as it passed through Republican and Federalist territory. Early on New Year's Day, 1802, the sleigh drew up at the President's House. There waiting on the front step stood Jefferson. With hands outstretched he gave the parson and the elder a warm welcome. From his pocket the parson drew a rare bit of Americana: "Sir, we have attempted to prove our great love to our great President, not in

great words but in mighty deeds. With this address we send you a great cheese, by the hands of the greatest men amongst us, as a peppercorn of the great esteem we bear our Chief Magistrate. This great cheese, sir, was not made by a great lord for his majesty, nor with a view to gain great offices or titles, but by the great personal labor of the greatest farmers of our great State, without the assistance of a single slave, for an elective President of a great people, with the only view of casting a huge mite into the great scale of democracy. . . . May God long preserve your life and health for a blessing to the United States and the world at large."

Jefferson had the cheese placed in the East Room, which he forthwith christened the Mammoth Room. He invited the two gentlemen from Massachusetts to his New Year's reception that afternoon. The President himself introduced them to cabinet officials, members of Congress, diplomats in gold braid, great ladies, blanketed Indians. To each of his guests the President, in his hospitable way, said, "Go into the Mammoth Room and sample the mammoth cheese." But, first, he carved out a huge slice to be sent back to Cheshire to those who had given it.

Republicans said it was the best cheese they had ever tasted; even a few Federalists grudgingly admitted it wasn't bad.

Just before Leland and Brown drove off, the President brought up a delicate matter. It was his rule, he said, never to accept presents while in office. He could make no exception. He must pay for the cheese. An entry in Jefferson's diary records: "Gave Revd. Mr. Leland, bearer of the cheese of 1235 lbs. weight, 200D." The parson was to spend the \$200 in Cheshire for whatever he felt best.

Right now they are celebrating the sesquicentennial of the mammoth cheese in Cheshire.

Letters to The Star . .

Pen-names may be used if letters carry writers' correct names and addresses. All letters are subject to condensation.

Fencing With the Law

Being one of the 1,000 Washingtonians in the toils of the law for not having parking access to my back yard, I was appreciative of your recent coverage afforded this horrible situation.

I suspect my own case is typical and might be of interest perhaps as a warning to some incipient Blandings (yet unborn). In October, 1950, I had my rear yard inclosed in wire fencing and rather liked the whole job for its safety and appearance as well. In July, 1951, I was visited by a building inspector who asked for the permit. I didn't have such, so I got in touch with my fence contractor at once, who promptly secured it. At least, we think he did—I have an official looking pink paper stating that this permit is issued with the understanding that all zoning regulations will be adhered to (I claim this was bad faith); while I was ignorant of the fence-permit requirement I'll have to plead guilty to the charge of having it up without one. I don't see any justification, though, for issuing one nine months after the fact, knowing that the job did not conform to building codes. Anyhow, we were none the wiser for several weeks more when we were told that we'd have to rip out eight feet or more of good tight fence (mounted on seven-foot spans) and either put in an eight-foot gate or leave the wire loose so it could be rolled back to permit driving in.

Well, it so happens that I care more for my garden than I do for a parking space, and what with 150 fairly expensive bulbs, some bushes and some trees plus a ton or more of topsoil, I wouldn't care to drive across my flower beds, anyhow. That's personal, though. If you don't own a car, that makes no difference; nor does it matter if you have a terrace just inside your fence that you couldn't drive up if you wanted to. Just put that eight-foot gate in, anyhow. I have an appeal up before the zoning board on grounds of the ordinance being discriminatory, capricious and unenforceable. When I advised an official of Municipal Court (Criminal Division) I got a rather amused reception. His approximate words were, "You don't think you as an individual citizen can do anything about changing it, do you?" I like to think I'm a law-abiding citizen, but I happen to also like my back fence the way it's been for some 14 months now. I also feel it's a sad commentary on our governmental structure that almost every one in authority I've talked with says it's too bad, but it's the law and nothing can be done about it. Maybe the press can. I'd sure love to see it try.

Prince Georges Politics

According to the newspapers, the Prince Georges County Commissioners refused to accept a gift of two United Nations flags offered to the county by an organization of professional and business women. As a reason for this extraordinary action and insult to the free nations of the world, the commissioners virtuously proclaimed that the United Nations is a haven for pinks and other nefarious characters. Shades of Senator McCarthy, with a little Taft isolationism thrown in for good measure! At the same time the papers have been reporting that the Prince Georges County Commissioners placed the county's insurance business with Republican mem-

bers of the State Assembly and a county Republican politician—without obtaining bids. There is also mention of a sizeable highway contract without bids. To top it all off, the commissioners have been telling the public about a county deficit as an excuse for failing to take action to increase teachers', police and other inadequate salaries paid to county employees. Upon analysis this deficit turned out to be a very considerable surplus.

Many of us who voted Republican last year were under the impression that a change would be for the better. It is becoming increasingly clear that the theme of the present administration is "politics as usual" and that the county actually needs an independent non-partisan government.

Independent Voter.

Methodical Preparedness

As a matter of defense preparedness, what delay would be required by our military establishments in ascertaining the present whereabouts, capabilities and availability of the millions of highly trained officers and enlisted men released after World War II?

As an example, the writer was given lengthy combat training, both as an enlisted man and as an officer. Further, by reason of civilian vocation, augmented by lengthy training at special military schools, and military experience, the writer became an outstanding specialist in four major fields of practical and necessary military operations. Although not a member of either an active or inactive reserve he, like many others, is subject to involuntary recall to service at this time.

The last record his branch of the service has at this time is perhaps his address at the time of release from active duty and his physical condition at that time. Should the emergency arise, and we are told such an emergency may arise at any hour, it is presumed the old personnel files will be searched for, and located, the current addresses of the veterans will somehow be determined, and the veterans, when found, will be surveyed to establish whether or not they are available and capable for duty.

The following procedures should be taken immediately: Make available to veterans at post-offices and other appropriate sources a simply questionnaire form, which, when completed, would furnish basic information such as name, age, service serial number, present occupation, status of dependents and personal opinion of present physical condition.

To please the pacifists, politicians, communistic-inclined, and sundry ilk, make the returning of such a form voluntary. The volume of the response received might well be gratifying and also indicate that in a national emergency people perhaps are interested in the welfare and defense of their country, rather than in accumulating war profits, overtime, black market profits and other personal benefits.

Check the questionnaires against service records. From the questionnaires, set up classified manpower inventories from which trained and experienced men may immediately be called for service if the need arises. Keep the inventories current by recording changes of addresses, status of dependents, deaths, etc.

In an emergency, time is of the essence. Major wars are generally won with the remnants of armies and history

records that those remnants are principally composed, not of the first choice conscripts, but rather of the young, the old, and the veterans of prior wars. My personal interest in the matter is that when the time comes, and I am sure it will come, I would like to have time to put on my shoes before reporting for duty.

Can't Hear Lawrence

Whenever David Lawrence discusses loyalty in Government, he never fails to make his favorite allegation—the Tydings "whitewash" or "superficial investigation." Since, apparently, the only Democrat Mr. Lawrence believes in is Senator McCarran, I shall quote from a Republican, Senator Henry C. Lodge, a minority member of the Tydings probe: "The subcommittee was directed by Senate Resolution 231 to investigate the question: 'Whether persons who are disloyal to the United States are or ever have been employed by the State Department.' There are 13,000 Americans and 3,000 aliens employed by the State Department. The determination of whether there are disloyal persons now employed by the department is, therefore, in itself a gigantic undertaking, the achievement of which would take great time and effort. To require the subcommittee to go back through the entire past is a task which has turned out to be clearly beyond the capabilities of any congressional committee. . . . This is not to say that the subcommittee did not do much work; it simply means that neither the administration loyalty board nor the congressional committee are adequate responses to the very legitimate popular concern and that, therefore, this investigation must be set down as superficial and inconclusive."

The word superficial, as used by Mr. Lodge, has an entirely different meaning from the sense used by Mr. Lawrence, who makes it a synonym for whitewash or cover-up. Although there are adverse comments in Senator Lodge's minority report, nowhere is the idea of a whitewash conveyed—as any honest person who can read will admit.

The committee centered its investigation on McCarthy's charges—the same charges which had already been probed by four Republican committees and thrown out for lack of substantiation. When reflecting upon Mr. Lawrence as he reveals himself in his kind of journalism, the words of the great Emerson are recalled: "What you are speaks so loudly, I cannot hear what you say."

Kathryn O'Neill.

Substitute Teachers

Being the parent of a child who attends a school where substitute teachers are occasionally employed to sit in for the regular teachers in their absence, I believe that more harm than good is done if incompetent substitutes are employed.

Some substitutes have not been in a school room for years. They, of course, feel out of place. The children are aware of this, through comparison with the regular teacher's procedure and probably become listless or noisy. As a result they become known as a crowd of roughnecks.

The reputation of our school is being ruined by substitute teachers who came in for a day or two. I hope more care will be given their selection.

Interested Parent.
Bladensburg, Md.

By Charles E. Tracewell

that the reader's interests are paramount. He must, of necessity, select and choose from the 11,000 new books published each year, and then he has every past year's "11 thousand" and many of the books of 100, 200, 300 or more years ago.

Some of our finest books come down to us from one thousand and two thousand years ago!

Most of the music we have conditioned ourselves to listen to and enjoy does not have any such age upon it.

It goes back no farther, in the main, than Bach's day, but still it presents a wealth of melody and inspiration which no reasonable ear can ever exhaust.

One of the finest things about music is that it is as wide, in its beauty and inspiration, as good books are. There is no lack of material. Music might well say of itself, as Walt Whitman said of himself, "I am wide, I contain multitudes."

The news of books and music is happy news, it helps make up the brighter side. News, too, is wide, and contains multitudes.

At Christmastime, particularly, the good news of books and music appeals to all, without regard to age.

Minute Speck of Metal Acts as Vacuum Tube

Transistor May Revolutionize Our 'Electronics Civilization'

By Thomas R. Henry

Some of the most revolutionary developments in history are promised by a tiny speck of metal not more than a thousandth of an inch square which, it now appears, can fulfill all the functions of a vacuum tube.

This is rapidly becoming an "electronics civilization." Radio, television, the incredibly intricate "brass brains" of computing machines, direction and depth finders, atomic bombs and proximity fuzes depend on electronic devices which, in turn, depend on vacuum tubes.

Even the tiniest possible vacuum tube is a super-giant compared with this new device—the transistor. A vacuum tube always is liable to blow out, causing failure of the apparatus which depends on it as well as considerable expense to radio and television owners. A transistor never can blow out, or, for that matter, have anything else happen to it.

Size is an extremely important factor. When the proximity fuze, now almost a fundamental of war, was first proposed in the last war it was considered an impossibility because of the difficulty of getting vacuum tubes small enough to fit into a fuze and at the same time rugged enough to stand being shot from a gun. A great deal of the development work consisted in producing such a tube. Had the transistor been in existence all this would have been eliminated.

Developed originally in the laboratories of the Bell Telephone Co., transistors now are objects of intensive research in laboratories throughout the country. At the United States Bureau of Standards they are being incorporated into calculating machines of hitherto undreamed-of intricacy.

The heart of the transistor is a speck of the relatively rare metal, germanium. This is usually found in combination with silver and sulphur and had no commercial value until its curious electrical properties were discovered.

The speck of germanium, specially treated, usually is inclosed in a bit of some kind of plastic about the size of a pea.

The newest type of transistor, Bureau of Standards engineers say, occupies about 1/400th of a cubic foot, whereas the smallest miniature vacuum tube fills about an eighth of a cubic inch.

Power consumption, according to a report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "is remarkably low. The signal level often found in modern electronic equipment is about a millionth of a watt. But a full watt of power is ordinarily required by conventional vacuum tubes to amplify this signal. This is about like sending a 12-car freight train, locomotive and all, to carry a pound of butter. The new transistor, unlike any earlier amplifier, can be operated with a power of about a millionth of a watt, which is just sufficient to carry the signal."

Use in Television Possible. "Transistors can be operated as amplifiers for telephone and television circuits and to provide the functions of detection and amplification such as are found in an ordinary radio set. One type also serves as a photoelectric device. These devices are still undergoing exploratory development."

"The results to date are encouraging. The new device has many desirable properties and characteristics that they may well cause a revolution in a wide variety of electronic, communication and measurement techniques."

"The transistors do not require power for heating and therefore can be operated without the delay required for warmup. Their small size, ruggedness and expected long life make them eminently suitable for many applications for which the usual vacuum tubes are not suitable."

But, it is stressed by Bureau of Standards electronics engineers, the revolution cannot be expected to come overnight. It would probably mean scrapping of much valuable present-day equipment which operates perfectly well with vacuum tubes. The transistor will really come into its own when this apparatus becomes antiquated and ready to be scrapped.

For one thing, they say, much expensive redesigning of circuits would be necessary to convert present apparatus.

Questions and Answers

The Star's readers can get the answer to any question of fact by either writing The Evening Star Information Bureau, 1200 I Street N.W., Washington, D. C., and enclosing return postage or by telephoning ST. 7362.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE.

Q. Is it true that if squirrels gather a large supply of nuts in autumn, the winter will be long and cold?—O. B. T.

A. Animals make preparations for winter due to inherited instinct, and not because of intellectual foresight. There is no evidence that relationship exists between the quantity of nuts squirrel gathers and the characteristics of the coming winter.

Q. What is the date for the establishment of Federal law enforcement?—K. B. N.

A. Federal law enforcement dates back to September 24, 1789, when the office of the Attorney General of the United States was created by Act of Congress, and Edmund Randolph was appointed the first Attorney General by President Washington. The Department of Justice was not established until June 22, 1870.

Beyond the Line of Duty

Returning from the wars, he hurried home:

Received the welcome of his country town

And laid aside his ribboned uniform

And got his denim clothes and jumper down

From where they hung upon a hook. The farm

Spread out before him, peaceful in the sun,

But in his heart he knew that there was still

Another bitter battle to be won:

The war of famine. He remembered well

The sad-eyed urchins begging for their bread;

In order that the sick world might be fed.

Time and to spare for glories by and by;

Time to display his battle stars, but now

There's work to do. The furrow lengthens black

And deep and straight behind the heavy plow.

Billy B. Cooper.